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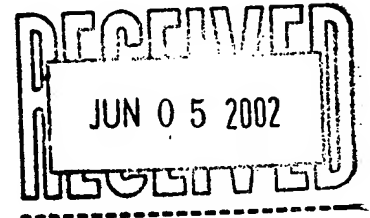
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
HIROFUMI HIRANO, et al.)
Application No.: 10/052,383)
Filed: January 23, 2002)
For: INK TANK, INK-JET)
CARTRIDGE, INK-SUPPLYING)
APPARATUS, INK-JET)
PRINTING APPARATUS AND)
METHOD FOR SUPPLYING INK)

May 29, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the document listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

U.S. Patent 5,709,253

The foregoing document was cited during prosecution of a Taiwanese application corresponding to the above-identified application, namely Taiwan 89110516.

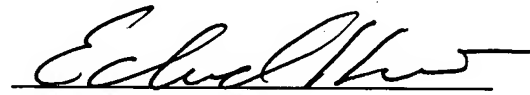
Copies of a Taiwanese Office Action and an English language translation thereof are enclosed.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. 37 C.F.R. §

1.97(b)(1). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

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